

(Doctrine of Pride, part 9—arrogant husbands)

65. Pride corrupts and destroys the husband.

- a. Pride motivates the husband to be preoccupied with his wife's lack of application of Scripture—e.g., submission to him—instead of his own application of Scripture. It is genuine and spiritual humility that enables him to love her regardless of her attitude to him (Eph. 5:25).
- b. Pride destroys a husband's ability to be a sensitive lover. The proud, arrogant man is only concerned with his own sexual satisfaction. The proud man fails to connect sex with love since he lacks capacity for true love. For the proud man, sex is simply a physical act for his own pleasure. He lacks capacity to even think about how different women are in this area.
- c. The proud husband is not oriented to being a protector and provider of his wife. Instead of protecting her (physically and emotionally), he is often childish or brutish and leaves her unprotected; he does not look after her, he uses her.
- d. The proud husband does not care about Bible doctrine. Therefore, he will not motivate and encourage her in Bible doctrine.
- e. A proud husband is a husband who does not take the time to develop true communication with his wife (or family). He lacks capacity for empathic communication. This is characterized by interrupting her, not allowing her to complete her thought. A proud husband causes his wife much pain with his tongue through ridicule. Of course, this results in her shutting down communication.
- f. In pride the husband is too busy thinking of his own self-importance; he lacks true gratitude for his wife. Instead of appreciating her, he is often irritated by her.

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and **do not be embittered** against them.

- g. Pride destroys the ability of the husband to be the spiritual leader he was designed to be. The divine design of a husband is outlined in Ephesians 5:25-32. A husband's attitude to the mandates in this passage reveals the extent of his pride or humility, which is always related to his volition. A negative husband, in his arrogance against God, is not motivated to learn of his responsibilities in Ephesians 5:25-32. If he is a man who is positive, he is aware of these passages through exposure to the Word of God. If he is a Christian who is aware of these passages, but "blows" them off, then arrogance and hardness of the heart has already been established in his soul.
 - 1) The Christian husband is to *love his wife sacrificially*—"just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her," Eph. 5:25. One of the worst mistakes a woman can make is marry an unbeliever. An unbeliever cannot do this.

- 2) The Christian husband's love is to have a "sanctifying" aspect to it similar to the Lord's *sanctifying love*—"so that He might sanctify her," 5:26. This means that he is to motivate and encourage her in her relationship with the Lord.
- 3) The Christian husband is to love his wife with a *cleansing or purifying Christ-like love*—*cleansing her by the Word*, 5:26. He is to encourage her in Bible doctrine. He should provide time for her to grow in the Word of God.
- 4) The Christian husband is to love his wife with a *nourishing love*, 5:29. He is to do whatever he can to provide for her spiritually, emotionally, and physically. This *requires* understanding!
- 5) The Christian husband is to love his wife with a *cherishing love*, 5:29. He is to cherish her in good times and bad. She is to be the treasure of his life.
- 6) The Christian husband is to love his wife with a *unifying love*, 5:31. This refers to physical and soulish unifying love; the two becoming one is not just on a physical level; it refers to being one emotionally and even spiritually as well. The husband and wife who are one are one in more ways than just in sex. They are together in mind, body, and soul. They are inseparable. They do not allow walls to come between them. One of the easiest things in marriage is for a husband or wife to allow walls to come between them. It takes work to stay connected. Consider this poem:

They say a wife and husband
 Bit by bit,
 Can rear between themselves a mighty wall,
 So thick they cannot speak with ease through it,
 Nor can they see across it, it stands so tall.
 Its nearness frightens them, but each alone
 Is powerless to tear its bulk away; and each
 Dejected wishes he had known
 For such a wall, some magic thing to say.
 So let us build with master art, my dear,
 A bridge of love between your life and mine,
 A bridge of tenderness, and very near,
 A bridge of understanding, strong and fine,
 Till we have formed so many lovely ties,
 There never will be room for walls to rise.

- 7) The Christian husband is to have a *glorifying love* for his wife, Eph. 5:32. As he grows in the Word of God and lives out the spiritual life, he not only has the power but the knowledge of how to love his wife. Not only that, he learns the makeup of his wife's soul and is able to bring out its beauty year after year. The result is that he is doubly blessed. Instead of living in a "not good for man to be alone" practical experience, he is further fulfilled as a man by being completed in his wife.
- h. One of the most common and horrendous mistakes a woman can make is to marry a man who is an unbeliever or a Christian who is not positive to God's Word. Unless a woman is really positive to God's Word, she will not be able to break any emotional connection she may have with an unbeliever or negative believer. She often fools herself into thinking that she will make him positive later, e.g., "can't he see how important doctrine and the Lord is to me?" There are countless *Christian* women who marry unbelievers or negative husbands and live to regret it. However, they only have themselves to blame. If they were really positive, they would have not have put the man before the Lord in the first place. They have made their own bed and must now sleep in it. Just because a Christian ends up marrying an unbeliever and later regrets it does not mean that she can now divorce him.

1 Corinthians 7:12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, let him not send her away. 13 And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, let her not send her husband away.

- i. The wife who has made the mistake of marrying a negative person (whether it is because of her own negative volition or because he has gone from positive to negative) is not left to a life of misery. She must redouble her efforts to draw closer to the Lord. Although there is much that she may miss out on in certain areas, the Lord can fulfill her soul in special ways as she more intensely focuses on Him. There are always consequences to the decisions we make in life. And marriage is a huge choice! However, the Lord can always turn cursing into blessing. You may not be able to get what you lost, but the Lord in His matchless marvelous grace can provide blessings in many other ways.

1 Peter 3:1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. [While there are certain decisions (e.g., drugs or excessive alcohol) that have consequences that cannot be undone, the believer can always reap God's grace in other ways.]

- j. If you are a wife with a positive husband, count your blessings. This does not mean that there will not be misunderstandings and difficulties in marriage. This does not even mean that he will not be a jerk from time to time. He still has an old sin nature. There is no such thing as a perfect storybook marriage! *There is no such thing as perfect husband or wife!* We all still live with old sin natures and in a world dominated Satan, and he will do anything to destroy your relationship, a relationship which more than any other relationship is designed *to mirror* the relationship between Christ and the church. However, regardless of the trials, if you have a positive husband or wife, you have the option of not only solving any problems, but having a relationship that becomes better and better with each passing year.

Doctrine matters!

In 'Ehyeh (אֶהְיֶה)

Pastor Don